

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 11 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
11 JUNE 1968

1. France

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The election campaign started off yesterday with a bang as Molotov cock-tails were thrown into two Gaullist party buildings. On the labor scene, there are still important pockets of resistance, including the large auto industry. Clashes between students and police broke out again in Paris last night, and student leaders have called for a mass demonstration against "repression" later today.

2. South Vietnam

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3. North Korea

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There was a flurry of minor incidents along the Demilitarized Zone over the weekend. We often cannot find the reasons behind such clashes because the evidence rapidly disappears as the incidents die down. They could result from North Korean attempts to infiltrate agents into the South or more simply be continuing harassment.

4. Yugoslavia

Many of Belgrade's students have returned to class following Tito's assurances to them Sunday. He put his prestige on the line in promising to meet their "justified" demands. What Tito thinks is justified may not accord with views of either the students or hardliners in the party. The latter could make it difficult for him to make good his promises.


5. Israel

The Israelis have finally agreed to receive a US inspection group at their Dimona nuclear facility on 29 June. This may give some indication of the stage of development which the Israelis have attained at this facility.

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6. Iceland

Police in Reykjavik are bracing for possible trouble during the NATO ministerial meeting scheduled for 24-26 June.



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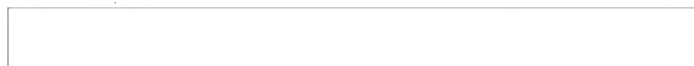


FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Photographic Mission Report: A high-level photographic mission on 3 June covered the Haiphong area with good quality photography. West of Haiphong it experienced a camera malfunction and encountered heavy cloud cover.

Activity had increased throughout the Haiphong port area since 22 May--the date of the last mission to cover this area. The pieces of rolling stock present increased from 147 on 22 May to 178 on 3 June. (These figures compare with an average of about 70 cars a day present during 1967. Repairs to the bridges account for this rise.) The volume of cargo in the area from the piers to the warehouses had increased by about 30 percent between the two missions. Around the warehouses, the cargo volume had increased by about ten percent with numerous unidentified small and large crates observed.

Eleven merchant ships were unloading in the inner harbor, and three others were being lightered at anchorage. There were a total of 21 merchant ships in the port area. The average number observed during May was sixteen.

The turnover of cargo which has been in open storage since April has been slow, but the new cargo being unloaded is moving out expeditiously. From 2 to 3 June, a 75 percent turnover in rolling stock was observed. The photography on 2 June came from a drone mission.

In spite of the increased level of ship arrivals in Haiphong, the average number of days for ships in port has dropped from 22 in March and 19 in April to 14 in May. The growth in merchant shipping arriving in Haiphong began in January of this year. This reflects the increased aid promised by Communist countries last October and Hanoi's need for increased foodstuffs.

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Kep was the only major airfield covered on this mission. The extension to the main runway appears complete, and two MIG-21s and four MIG-15/17s were present. This is about the same number of aircraft that have been seen there over the past several months, and they are probably the aircraft flown by North Korean pilots.

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New Hanoi Propaganda Effort: Hanoi is apparently gearing up for an extensive propaganda campaign in support of its negotiating team in Paris.

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Within the past few weeks, propaganda themes have been tailored increasingly to American and Western audiences. Hanoi Radio commentary is now frequently tied to American events. It is full of historical interpretations of the US role in Vietnam, amply illustrated by quotes from politically prominent government figures and replete with analogies between Vietnamese history and American history, especially the American war of independence.

Vietnamese nationalism is getting special attention. It received a high priority in the recent meetings of the North Vietnamese National Assembly, both in the speeches of the Hanoi leadership and in the publicity surrounding the delegates who represented provinces of South Vietnam in the Assembly. A long Nhan Dan commentary on 10 June, built around this theme, claimed that when North Vietnam was founded in 1945 it proclaimed the "independence of the Vietnamese people in the entire country." In language similar to that used by Xuan Thuy in Paris and other Hanoi leaders in interviews and speeches back home, the newspaper said: "Any place, any area,

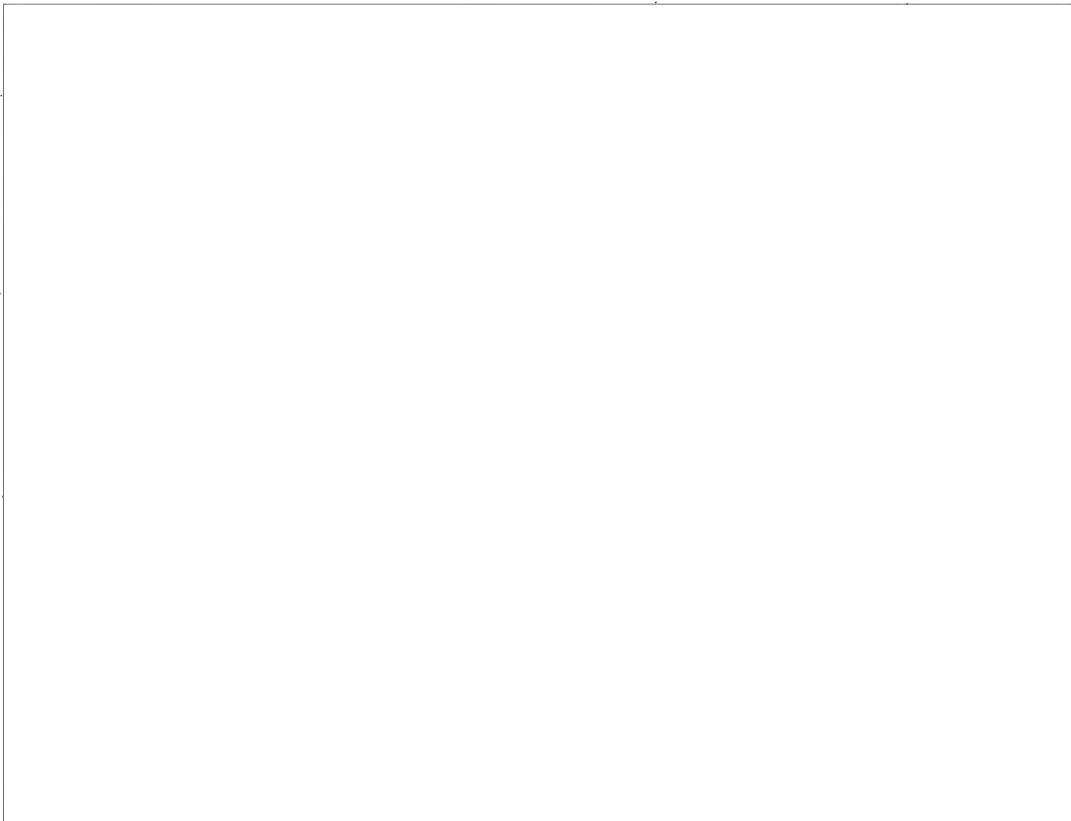
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any region in Vietnam is Vietnamese territory, and he who intrudes into any area encroaches on Vietnam and must be resisted by the entire Vietnamese people throughout the country."

Through all this, however, the fiction that there is no North Vietnamese Army presence in South Vietnam is still maintained. The commentary--probably one of the strongest Communist statements of the case for nationalism to date--generally sidestepped the issue, saying only that "the South Vietnamese who regrouped North under the Geneva agreements have always been ready to return to their native land to fight the enemy at the call of South Vietnam, but all Vietnamese throughout the country and in foreign countries have enthusiastically responded to the call of the Fatherland, eager to fulfill their duty toward the great front line--South Vietnam."

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